

VIA FACSIMILE (571) 273-8300

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone call made by the undersigned March 10, 2006 during which clarification of the 10/17/05 Office Action was requested and received.

Claims 1-13 were previously canceled. Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected and have been rewritten along the lines suggested by the Examiner in the 10/17/05 Office Action. No new matter has been added thereby. The Examiner's drawing objections and claim rejections are discussed below. For the reasons given below Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, and earnestly solicit passage of all pending claims to allowance.

1. Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings submitted 7/20/05 as not being in conformance with 37 CFR 1.83(a), which requires that all claimed features be shown in the drawings. Specifically the Examiner states that "the electrical communication must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered."

Applicants respectfully point out that they filed Replacement Drawings to specifically overcome this basis of rejection in the Response dated 7/20/05. In particular, Applicants amended the drawings to show a means of electrical communication (wiring) via a wiring schematic which forms the basis for the electrical communication. In addition, in this Reply Applicants have amended the specification to state that "Many means of effectuating electrical communication are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the art, and one such means may be implemented through conventional wiring, as shown schematically in Figs. 2 and 8."

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection, and reconsider the application.

2. Objections to Specification under 35 USC 132(a)

The Examiner has objected to the amendment filed 7/20/05 allegedly because it introduces new matter into the specification. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the introduction of the

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wiring into the drawings is not supported by the original specification, and in addition that the data button 150 is similarly not present.

With respect to the introduction of wiring into the drawings, Applicants have amended the specification to point out that a wiring scheme is well within the skill of one of ordinary skill in the electromechanical arts. The specification provides the guidance as to the specific components needed in creating the electronic control means on page 7 lines 8-14, wherein it lists printed circuit board 70 which contains the microcontroller and associated circuits and controls the operation of the blade changer, push-button switches 76, 77 on keypad 75, a power source 85, and safety interlocks 155. It would have been facile for one of ordinary skill to interconnect those electronic components once they are known.

With respect to the data button, Applicants traverse the objection for the following reasons. The data button was originally presented in the parent application, USSN 09/562,270 (now abandoned), on page 8 lines 10-12, and in more detail in lines 15-30. It is disclosed therein that the supply cartridge, as shown in Figs. 3A-3B, has a data button labeled 150. In addition, original Figure 1 shows a data button on both supply and waste cartridges, so clearly Applicants provided disclosure for the data button being present on both cartridges. Additional figures showing the data buttons are Figs 4A-4D, 5A-B, and finally Figure 6 which shows both supply and waste cartridge data buttons in schematic. Although the same data buttons were then added to Figure 8 in the 7/20/05 amendment to correct the fact that one data button was omitted from the original CIP Figure 8, data buttons on both supply and waste cartridges have ample support in the original specification, and thus does not constitute new matter.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection, and reconsider the application.

3. Rejection of claims 14-15 under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

Finally, the Examiner has pointed out that it is not clear to him that element 60 (driveshaft pulley) could operate in conjunction with motor gear 55. Applicants previously amended the specification to change the driveshaft "pulley" description to a "gear," in the Substitute Specification submitted with the 7/20/05 response. That change appeared on page 6, line 27 wherein the word "pulley 60" was replaced with "gear 60", and again on page 11, line 9 as best shown in the mark-up version of the Substitute Specification.

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4. Rejection of claims 14-15 under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-15 for being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner states that it is not clear what "means for electronically controlling all of the functions of the apparatus" encompass.

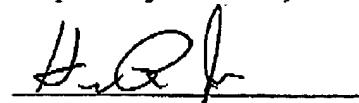
The components included in the "electronic control means" include the components depicted schematically in Fig. 6 including the microcontroller 70, display 80, keypad 75 containing fingerpad switches 76, 77, battery 86, drive motor 50 or 250, waste and supply cartridge touch memory data buttons 150 and readers (not shown but incorporated by reference). Other electronic control means include electronically-controlled cartridge locks, safety interlock switches 155, and means for electrical communication. The functions include 1) the electronic control means that control the coordination of the blade changing process, and 2) the safety interlock function. Both are detailed throughout the detailed description, but attention is drawn to the following portions: p. 5 lines 6-7; p. 6 lines 13-17; p. 10 lines 15 – p. 11 line 12; p. 11 line 13- p. 14 line 14.

Applicants have amended claims 14-15 to add additional structure to control all of the functions of the apparatus. The Examiner is respectfully reminded that 35 USC 112/sixth paragraph only requires that "An element in a claim for a combination may be expressed as a means or a step for performing a specified function without the recital of structure, material or acts in support thereof, and such claims shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof." Here Applicants have claimed a "means for electronically controlling all of the functions of the apparatus" and have specified those electronic elements that comprise the structure necessary for the control of the apparatus. A listing of those functions is not required in the claims, as it is implicit that the functions are those set forth in the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the Examiner's basis of objection and rejection have been met or overcome by these arguments and amendments, and reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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